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Journal of Agriculture

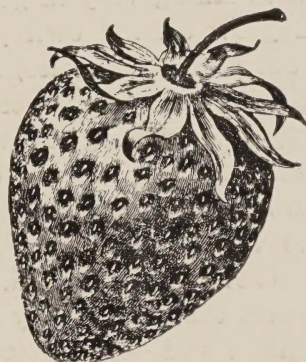
Catalogue and Price List

1943

RENNIE'S HIGH GRADE

Strawberry Plants

New England's Best



GEORGE RENNIE

Strawberry Specialist

ANDOVER,

MASSACHUSETTS

Telephone 706

1908-1943

Once again I am pleased to greet my many customers, both old and new. I thank them heartily for their patronage. I especially thank those who have recommended my plants to their neighbors and friends, from whom I have received many orders.

For 35 years I have been growing and shipping strawberry plants, starting in 1908 in a small way. The business has increased, from a few thousand plants the first year, until now I am shipping plants to every part of New England and New York State. The land here is ideal for growing plants, a light sandy loam, which causes the plants to go down deep into the soil, making very large roots that are sure to grow. I grow all my own plants and if I should be sold out of any varieties, I say so, never buying from any one to fill your order as some growers do. In digging plants, I dig the whole row, discarding all small plants, also the old or mother plant. My plants are all dug after your order is received, taken to the packing room, cleaned and trimmed, ready to set out in the field. This trimming of the plants makes them very easy to set out and saves you much time and labor, just when you are rushed with your Spring work. In shipping plants by express, I always send a postal notifying you when the plants are shipped. Trusting that I shall continue to receive a share of your patronage and hoping that this will be a successful and prosperous year for you, I am

Yours very truly,

GEORGE RENNIE,

The Strawberry Man
of Andover, Mass.

BRIEF CULTURAL DIRECTIONS FOR THE BEGINNER

Soil. Almost any land that will grow corn will grow strawberries.

When to Plant. The earlier in the Spring the better. As soon as you can prepare the ground in good shape so the Spring rains will give the plants a good start. Plants do best when set before they start to grow very much.

Preparing the Ground. Spade or plow under a good coat of barnyard manure, then harrow till it is nice and mellow. If barnyard manure can't be had you can use hen manure or a 4-8-4 fertilizer, 1000 lbs. to the acre spread broadcast, then harrowed in.

Planting Distance Apart. We recommend making the rows four feet apart, and setting the plants every 15 to 18 inches in the row. This requires about 7,500 plants per acre.

Setting the Plants. A good many strawberry growers use a spade to make the holes to set the plants in. One man to make the holes and another to set the plants. Others use a mason's trowel. Push it straight down in the ground, then push back and forward, this makes a V shaped opening. Hold the plant with the left hand while you fill in the earth with the right, then firm the earth around plant. Be sure to set plants very firm in the ground. More plants die every year from being set too loose in the ground than all other causes combined. Great care should be taken to set the plant at the right depth, with the crown of plant even with surface of the ground.

Picking Blossoms from New Set Plants. The standard or June bearing varieties are not expected to produce a crop the year they are planted. The blossom stems should be pinched from all plants as soon as they appear. This throws the strength into the plant and makes strong, healthy plants that will grow a big crop of fruit the following season. Ever-bearing varieties should have all blossoms picked off until July 1st of the first year. This will give you berries during late Summer and Fall the year they are planted.

Cultivation. We recommend shallow cultivation as soon as the plants are set. This levels the ground and holds the moisture. Cultivation should be kept up right through the growing season. About the last of November plants should be covered with two inches of meadow hay, rye, straw or pine needles, or any covering you have handy provided it is free from weed seeds.

Profit and Pleasure in Growing Strawberries

Strawberries yield quicker returns than any other fruit crop. With no other fruit crop can you set plants or trees one Spring and harvest a full crop of fine fruit the next Spring. "Strawberries bring in early money." They are one of the first crops to be harvested in the Spring. They bring in money when most needed just after a hard Winter. No other crop has brought the farmer as much profit during the past few years as the strawberry crop.

If you should order your plants over the phone be sure you get the right number. Andover 706. Ask for George Rennie.

Plant a Victory Garden

When you plant your Victory Garden be sure you plant some strawberries. They are a necessity. Not a luxury. Strawberries are listed as an essential farm crop by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This is a good time to plant strawberries for home use or for market. Strawberry prices are going to be high for a good many years. The large growers are cutting down on their acreage, as they can't get enough pickers to harvest the crop. This will help the small grower. Those that grow from 500 plants up to one acre.

STANDARD VARIETIES

Howard 17, (Per.) Early. Since the Howard was introduced in 1915 it has replaced all other early berries. Its great productiveness, large size, nice color and smooth, even shape puts it in a class by itself. The Howard 17 is the variety that all new varieties are judged by. Growers have made more money with Howard 17 than any other variety.

Here is a list of some of the good points of Howard:

(1) Soil. Howard does well on any kind of soil and in any climate, out-classing all other varieties.

(2) The plants are very productive. No other variety yields more quarts per acre.

Take notice when you are picking off the blossoms from your newly set plants; you will have two,

three or four fruit stems to pick off the Howard plants; on most other varieties you will have only one or two stems to pick off.

(3) The berries are beautiful in appearance, having a bright, glossy, red color. A berry that looks good in the box or in the crate. The only fancy berry that is a market berry, all the other fancy berries are poor yielders.

(4) Howard berries are of large size and hold their size well throughout their long bearing season. A very easy berry to pick as it has no green points. We have one of the best strains of Howard 17 in New England, as we use only the best plants in our breeding beds.

The Howard should not be allowed to set too many plants, as after heavy rain they do not dry off. Berries will be soft and there will be some rot. Keep plants well spaced. This gives them a chance to dry off after rain.

We set out more Howard 17 plants than all other varieties combined and still we get sold out on them every year. To make sure of getting the plants you want, send your order in early. Don't wait until late in the season. Send a small remittance with your order, balance when you want plants shipped.

By Parcel Post Prepaid

25 Plants	100 Plants	200 Plants	300 Plants
50c	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$3.50
	500 Plants	1000 Plants	
	\$5.00	\$9.00	

By Express or Called For at Farm

Not Prepaid

100	200	300	500	1000
\$1.25	\$2.25	\$3.25	\$4.75	\$8.50

PREMIER EXTRA EARLY

We have always believed Howard 17 and Premier to be the same variety. However some of our customers have purchased the plants under the name of Premier, and it has proven so valuable to them that they always buy their plants under the name of Premier. We purchased our Premier plants from a leading Michigan grower, and any of our customers may have the true Premier by ordering them under that name.

Prices same as Howard 17.

PATHFINDER (Per.) Early

A new variety from the New Jersey Experiment Station. Berries ripen a few days after the Howard 17. It makes a vigorous, healthy plant. The berries are large size, nice uniform shape, and good color. A good cropper, firm, and of good quality. We have had good reports from customers that have fruited the Pathfinder. The pickers like to pick the Pathfinder. If you haven't grown Pathfinder be sure you include some in your order this Spring.

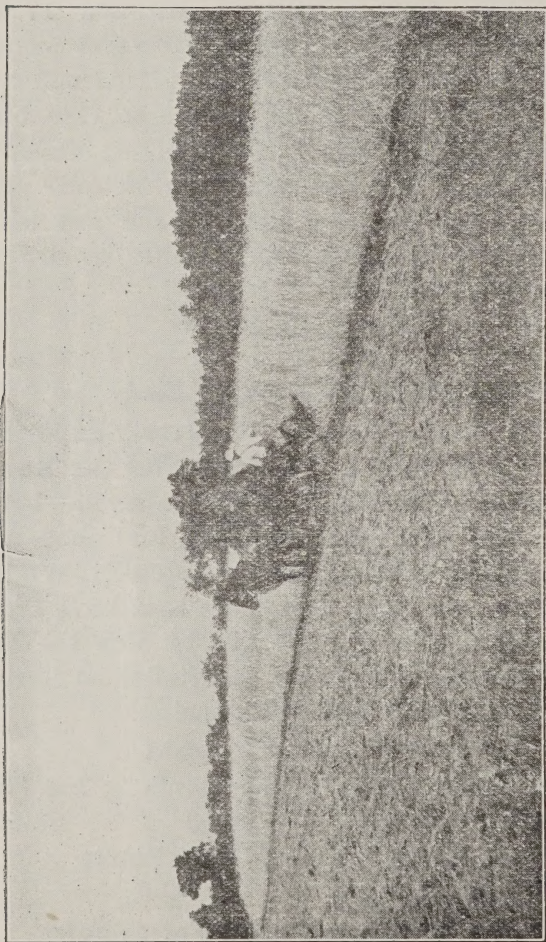
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By Express or Called For at Farm**Not Prepaid**

100	200	300	500	1000
\$1.25	\$2.25	\$3.25	\$4.75	\$8.50

A Satisfied Customer is Our Best Advertisement



**Plowing Under a Crop of Rye. Getting the Land in Shape
For a Crop of Plants This Coming Season**

Owing to the high cost of labor and materials we will not be able to quote special prices on large lots.

HOW WE PREPARE THE LAND FOR STRAWBERRIES

We plant one quarter of our land to strawberry plants every year. Every Fall the land that is not in strawberries is planted to winter rye. This is plowed under in the Spring, about the middle of June. Then we plant buckwheat and this is plowed under when it starts to form seed. For every crop of strawberry plants that we take off the land we plow under three crops of rye and three crops of buckwheat. This keeps the land well filled with humus and holds the moisture. When a dry time comes the plants never show it.

We fertilize with hen manure mostly and horse manure when we can get it. This is plowed under in the Fall. The land is plowed again in the Spring. Then harrowed until it is nice and mellow and ready for planting. We always get our plants set out between the first and the twentieth of April. About two weeks after planting we use a 5-8-7 fertilizer to start the plants, a handful to every three or four plants, then hoe it in.

CATSKILL (Per.) Midseason

The Catskill is a midseason berry; ripens about a week after the Howard 17. A cross of the Marshall and Howard 17. The plants are large, very vigorous and yield very heavy crops. The berries are very large, firm, bright red in color, glossy and attractive, and good quality. The bright, shiny red

Order your plants early. A small remittance is all that is required with your order. Send balance when you want plants shipped.

berries make an attractive package in the basket or in the crate. The berries are so large they should be sold in trays, rather than in crates. On rich land the Catskill makes too many plants and should not be allowed to set too many as we find the largest and finest berries are always where plants are fairly wide apart. The Catskill keeps good size to the last picking and to be at its best should have fairly heavy and rich land. Anyone growing for market cannot go wrong in planting Howard 17 for early and Catskill for midseason to late. The berries are produced on strong stems that keep the berries up off the ground. They dry off after heavy rain and you get very few rotten berries. Not quite as heavy a cropper as the Howard 17. They ripen about a week after the Howard. They are at their best when the Howard is starting to run down a little in size. Therefore they bring a better price in the market. The Catskill is getting better known now. Every year we increase our planting of Catskill. Plant the Howard 17 on the light to medium land and the Catskill on the heavy land.

By Parcel Post Prepaid

25 Plants	100 Plants	200 Plants	300 Plants
50c	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$3.50
	500 Plants	1000 Plants	
	\$5.00	\$9.00	

By Express or Called For at Farm

Not Prepaid

100	200	300	500	1000
\$1.25	\$2.25	\$3.25	\$4.75	\$8.50

You will do us a favor by showing this catalogue to your friends.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Official Certificate No. 116

Boston, July 22, 1942

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that I have this twenty-first day of July completed the inspection of the nursery stock of George Rennie grown at Argilla Road, Andover, State of Massachusetts, and find it to be apparently free from all injurious insects and diseases which might be transferred on nursery stock from the nursery to the orchard or garden.

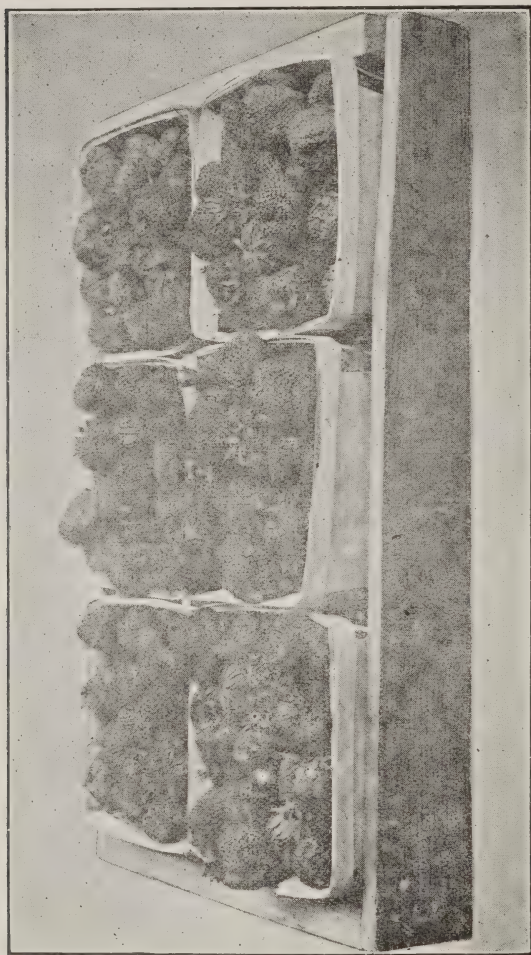
This certificate good until July 1, 1943.

Inspected by B. I. Gerry

(Signed) R. H. Allen, Director.

SPACING OF PLANTS

Most growers allow far too many plants to set in the row. We believe that the largest crops of the finest berries can be grown in rows two and a half to three feet wide with plants spaced seven or eight or even nine inches apart. Any plants that set closer than this should be treated as weeds and should be cut out with the hoe when hoeing the plants. Have one end of the hoe very sharp for this purpose. In the matted row you will find the most and largest berries are at the side of the rows. That is because they have more moisture than plants in the middle of the rows. In the spaced rows they have all the moisture they need to make large fruit. In the spaced rows you have very little rot as they dry off better after rain. You also get larger berries in a dry season. We have a customer on the North Shore that set out 500 Howard 17 plants. He allowed each plant to make only eight runners spaced nine inches apart and he picked from the 500 plants 1300 quarts of berries. All the growers in that town are following this system now. Some growers may think this is too much work. Suppose you try spacing the



A Tray of Everbearing Berries

**I Pay Parcel Post Charges—You Pay Express
Charges**

plants in two or three rows and compare with the rest of your bed.

MASTODON EVERBEARING

We have tried all of the everbearing varieties, and we consider the Mastodon and Gem to be the two best varieties. Mastodon makes a very large plant, and the berries are the largest of any of the everbearing varieties. Does best on a medium soil, neither too light or too heavy. Set the plants as early as you can prepare the land in good shape. Keep all blossoms picked off until July 4th. They should start to fruit about August 1st and continue to fruit until last of October. If you have never grown Mastodon or Gem, plant some this Spring. 150 to 200 plants will supply a good sized family with all the berries they can use from August until October with a second crop the next Spring. They should then be plowed under, as they don't fruit enough to bother with the second Fall. For best results a new bed should be set out every Spring. Fruit growers and farmers who have a roadside stand, should plant some of the everbearing varieties. They will bring trade to your stand.

I want to invite everyone interested in strawberries to come to my farm and see the Mastodon and Gem in fruit this Fall. Come anytime after August 10th until last of September. "All are welcome."

By Parcel Post Prepaid			
25 Plants	100 Plants	200 Plants	500 Plants
50c	\$2.00	\$3.50	\$7.50
By Express Not Prepaid			
500 Plants—\$7.00			

GEM EVERBEARING (Per.)

Introduced to the trade in 1934, Gem makes a very vigorous growth of medium sized plants. The foliage is very healthy with no leaf spot. The berries average large in size, are bright red in color, very showy and attractive in the box, and very firm. They stand a wet spell better than the Mastodon as they don't have so heavy foliage. The berries dry off better after rain. The Gem does well grown in the hill system or narrow row. For the narrow row set plants 18 inches apart in the row, with rows 3½ ft. apart and let each plant make six to eight runner plants. A good berry for home use or market. If the Mastodon is not entirely satisfactory with you, try some Gem this Spring.

By Parcel Post Prepaid

25 Plants	100 Plants	200 Plants	500 Plants
50c	\$1.75	\$3.25	\$6.50

By Express Not Prepaid

500 Plants—\$6.00	1000 Plants—\$12.00
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We use square pint baskets for marketing our Everbearing berries. We find they sell better than in quart baskets.

How to Reach Our Farm by Automobile

Come to Andover Square, then down Central Street and go under the railroad bridge, keep to the left, then first right. Our farm is the ninth house on the right.

Every one of our strawberry beds is grown for plants and not fruit. Some growers grow for fruit and dig and sell the outside edges of the rows for plants, the centers being saved for fruiting purposes.

By this method the customer receives only the end runner plants, and naturally the smallest and most poorly rooted. Such plants are dear at any price. I would rather pay \$10.00 per 1000 for good plants than take those small plants as a gift. With our method of digging and trimming plants, these small plants are discarded, your orders being filled with strong, fully developed young plants that will make a quick, sturdy growth in your fields this year.

RASPBERRY PLANTS

We will have Latham and Taylor Raspberry Plants for sale in the Fall. For October planting Latham and Taylor are the two best varieties for New England.

Arlington, Mass.

May 9, 1942

Mr. George Rennie,

Dear Sir:

I received the plants in good shape and they are doing well. They certainly are a fine lot of plants and I am much pleased with them. I thank you for your prompt delivery.

Respectfully yours,

ALFRED M. MORTON.

Woodbridge, Conn.

April 19th, 1942

Mr. George Rennie,

Dear Sir:

Hope I am not too late to get some strawberry plants. I shall want 500 Howard, 500 Catskill and 200 Pathfinder. We had wonderful berries last year. Had no trouble getting 25c a quart at the house.

Yours respectfully,

EDWARD HITCHCOCK.

Dover-Foxcroft, Maine
April 20, 1942

Mr. George Rennie,
Andover, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have set out thousands of strawberry plants within the last few years, but the Premier that I received from you last year were the best that I ever set out. I am enclosing a check for 3000 more of the same kind.

Respectfully yours,

LESLIE AMES.

Manchester, N. H.
April 17, 1942

Mr. George Rennie,

Dear Sir:

I have always got my plants from you except last year. And that's where I made my mistake. Please send me by Parcel Post 700 Howard 17 and 100 Pathfinder. "It's hard to beat the Howard 17." But I would like to try a few of your Pathfinder.

Yours truly,

A. E. MARTIN.

Mount Vernon, Maine
March 10, 1942

Mr. George Rennie,
Andover, Mass.

Dear Mr. Rennie:

I am enclosing a check for two dollars and 50 cents for which book me for 200 Howard 17 strawberry plants. Will notify you when ready for them. I have been a small buyer of your plants which are used in our home garden. You have always furnished me wonderful plants that have produced large size fine berries.

Best wishes for your 1942 business.

Cordially yours,

F. W. TEAGUE.

PLEASE USE THIS ORDER SHEET

GEORGE RENNIE

Strawberry Specialist

Andover, Mass.

Please forward to Date of Order

Name

Post OfficeR. D. No.....

Express OfficeP. O. Box.....

County Street

StateShip by.....
(Mail or Express)

Ship plants on or about

Please write name and address plainly, and fill all blanks perfectly. Always state how goods shall be sent, attach price to each article and add up accurately.

Orders of 1000 Plants or Over go Best by Express

Quantity	Variety of Stock Ordered	PRICE	
		DOLLARS	CENTS
	Howard 17		
	Premier		
	Catskill		
	Pathfinder		
	Mastodon Everbearing		
	Gem Everbearing		

No Orders for Less Than \$1.00 Accepted

**If You Order Late in the Season Give a
Second Choice**

True to Name. While I use every precaution to have all plants, etc., true to name (I believe I come as near doing this as anyone in the business), I will not be responsible for any sum greater than the cost of stock should any prove otherwise than as represented.

Please write below the names and addresses of any acquaintances and friends who might be interested in, or buyers of strawberry plants, and I will send them a catalogue.

Gilford, N. H.
Feb. 22, 1942

Mr. George Rennie,
Dear Sir:

Please send me 300 Howard and 200 Catskill May 8th, by Parcel Post. Check enclosed for \$6.00. We were ever so much pleased with your plants last year. The finest we have seen, and we expect a fine crop from them this year.

Very truly yours,

MRS. A. P. GERRY.

I Pay Parcel Post Charges—You Pay Express Charges

April 13, 1942

Michigan State College

South Haven Experiment Station, South Haven, Michigan

Mr. George Rennie,

Dear Mr. Rennie:

The strawberry plants arrived in excellent condition. They are exceptionally fine plants and I certainly appreciate your sending them to us. You will find inclosed a check in payment for the plants.

Yours very truly,

STANLEY JOHNSTON,

Superintendent.

Canaan, N. H.

May 23, 1942

Mr. George Rennie,

Andover, Mass.

Dear Mr. Rennie:

Your plants have arrived and I wish to thank you for so prompt a delivery. They are splendid plants and I have never seen any better. I have room for 100 more. Will you ship me 100 Catskill this time. I have never used them, so am curious to see what they will do.

Sincerely yours,

W. B. HINKLEY.

Walpole, Mass.

May 26, 1942

Mr. George Rennie,

Dear Sir:

Find check for \$2.50 for 200 Howard 17. I would like to get them to plant over the week end if you can send them right away. I have always had very good luck with the plants I have had from you.

Yours truly,

LESTER E. FITZPATRICK.

**We are always glad to hear of the success our
customers are having with our plants.**

Be Your Order Large or Small, We Will Treat You "On the Square"

Terms—Cash must accompany all orders. No plants shipped C. O. D.

How to Remit—Post Office, Express, Money Order, Registered Letter or Bank Draft.

Claims—Must be made on receipt of plants, so that mistakes (should any have been made), may be promptly corrected.

All plants are fresh dug when wanted, kept away from both sun and wind, taken to the packing room to be **trimmed** ready for planting; tied in bunches of 26, labeled and set in moss in light boxes or crates, and delivered to the post office or express office at Andover, Mass.

I take the greatest care to have all plants true to name and in case any should prove otherwise I will not be liable for any amount greater than paid me for the plants.

Orders should be sent as soon as possible and your order will be booked and shipped when wanted.

A card will be sent notifying you when plants are shipped by express, so you can be on the lookout for them.

GEORGE RENNIE, Andover, Mass.

Get Your Order in Early